UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION
INFORMATION BRANCH
30 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO 2, CALIFORNIA

January 4, 1949

WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ended Jan. 7, 1949)

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 4--- This week's Fairly Good Buys in fruits in the San Francisco wholesale produce market are Watsonville Pippin apples and cranberries.

Grapes, Northwestern apples, pears and persimmons are Fair Buys.

Cold weather in citrus producing areas has resulted in somewhat higher prices on citrus fruits. Prices are firm on grapefruit, lemons are higher, and there's a possibility that prices will advance on oranges.

Avocados are also slightly higher than last week.

Best Buys in vegetables are carrots (slightly higher), onions, potatoes, hard squash (Banana, Hubbard, and Table Queen--also known as Danish and Acorn), and tomatoes (considering the season).

Representing the week's Fair Buys in vegetables are cabbage, cauliflower, celery, (all slightly higher), and mushrooms (slightly lower).

Among the high-priced items are artichokes, Florida snap beans, cucumbers, peppers, and soft squash.

MORE

In the San Francisco wholesale meat market, Good and Choice grades of lamb and fresh and smoked hams were in best demand for the New Year holiday. Other classes of meat were in only fair demand, although supplies were more than adequate. Prices have continued their recent downward trend on beef, with steer and heifer carcasses and beef cuts $1.00 to $2.00 lower per hundredweight. Pork loins have dropped $1.00 to $2.00 per hundredweight, and refined lard packed in 1-pound cartons has dropped another 50 cents to $1.00 per hundredweight. All other classes have held unchanged in price.

A limited demand for liberal offerings of butter has resulted in a price drop of 1 to 1½ cents in the wholesale butter market. Grades A&AA (1st Quality) are 1½ cents lower at 69½ to 71½ cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints to retailers. And Grade B(2nd Quality) butter is 1-cent lower at 68½ to 70 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints to retailers.

Eggs are lower priced this week. Good supplies, augmented by heavier shipments from central western markets, lower prices in central western markets, and the time of year when prices normally drop are the reasons. In the San Francisco wholesale market, Grade "A" Large eggs in cartons are quoted 5 cents lower to retailers at 68 to 69 cents per dozen, and Grade "A" Mediums are 5 cents lower at 66 to 67 cents. Grade "A" Smalls are unchanged at 61 cents per dozen in cartons to retailers.

Dressed poultry is little changed in price from a week ago in the San Francisco wholesale market. Small colored fryers in liberal supply are slightly lower, colored hens are down 1-cent per pound, and young hen turkeys are 1 to 2 cents per pound lower. Rabbits in lighter supply and better demand are up 1 cent per pound. Generally, supplies of all classes are ample for needs.

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INFORMATION BRANCH
30 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco 2, California

In cooperation with the
Federal-State Market News Service

WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ended Jan. 14, 1949)

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 11---Fruits and vegetables have been sufferers of the cold weather, which has resulted in higher prices on many items.

Watsonville Pippin and Red Delicious apples, grapes, tangerines, and pears are all a Fair Buy this week in the San Francisco wholesale market.

Lemons are considerably higher; grapefruit is higher; and small oranges are quite a bit higher. Large oranges are slightly lower. The reason that small oranges are higher and large oranges are lower is that in recent receipts there has been a larger percentage of large size oranges.

With vegetable prices definitely on an upward trend, onions and hard squash (Hubbard and Banana) are the only Best Buys this week.

Potatoes are a Fairly Good Buy.

Carrots, cabbage (higher), and mushrooms are Fair Buys.

Artichokes are high and frosted; snap beans are higher; broccoli is high; cauliflower is higher; celery is considerably higher; cucumbers are scarce and high; peppers are high; soft squash is scarce and high; sweetpotatoes and tomatoes are higher.

Cold weather has tended to stimulate the demand for meat in the San Francisco wholesale market. On beef, a larger amount was moved during the past week than for several weeks. Demand for lamb has kept the daily supply cleaned up. On pork loins, demand has exceeded supply to result in a price advance of $2.00 per hundredweight. A seasonal let-up in offerings of veal has shortened the supply drastically. Prices on Good steer carcasses have been running around $1.00 lower per hundredweight, while Canner to Utility cow carcasses have sold as much as $2.00 higher. Some steer and heifer beef cuts have dropped $2.00 to $4.00 per hundredweight. All other classes of meat have

held practically unchanged.

Butter prices are little changed from last week in the wholesale market. Grades AAAA (1st Quality) are 1/2-cent lower at 69 to 71 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints to retailers. Grade B (2nd Quality) is unchanged at 68½ to 70 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints to retailers. Supplies have been curtailed somewhat by weather conditions but are ample for all needs of a rather limited demand.

Supplies of eggs are lighter because of the cold weather, but receipts have been sufficient for needs. And prices have held unchanged on all grades and sizes. Grade "A" Large eggs in cartons are quoted to retailers at 68 to 69 cents per dozen, Grade "A" Mediums at 66 to 67 cents, and Grade "A" Smalls at 61 cents per dozen.

Dressed poultry prices in the San Francisco wholesale market have been on a downward trend this past week. Supplies are in excess of the usual slow post holiday demand. Colored fryers and roasters are 2 to 4 cents per pound lower, and all weights of Leghorn hens are down 2 cents per pound. All other classes are unchanged from last week.

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SAN FRANCISCO 2, CALIFORNIA

January 18, 1949

WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ended Jan. 21, 1949)

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 18--- The San Francisco wholesale fruit and vegetable market is still without any "Best Buys" this week. Among the week's Fair Buys in fruit are Watsonville Pippin apples, grapes, pears and grapefruit. Receipts of California grapefruit have been very light, but quite liberal receipts have been coming in from Texas.

Lemons and oranges are high.

Vegetable supplies are considerably lighter because of the recent cold weather. Onions are a Fairly Good Buy, while cabbage and potatoes rank as a Fair Buy.

Artichokes, snap beans, broccoli, and Brussels sprouts are all high. Carrots are higher. Cauliflower is running mostly to small heads. Celery and lettuce have suffered in quality with the cold weather and are high priced. Peas and peppers are high. And good quality sweetpotatoes and tomatoes are higher. The only cucumbers in the market are hothouse stock. And there is practically no eggplant this week.

MORE

Old Man Winter has had his hand in just about everywhere lately -- including the San Francisco wholesale meat market. Shipments have been coming in late because of blizzards in some areas, while the local cold snap has kept demand at a fairly active pace for most items. There has been a sub-normal supply of cow beef carcasses, veal and calf carcasses, a very limited supply of ewe mutton, and a short supply of pork products. As for prices, all grades of cow beef have been on a $1.00 to $2.00 upward trend. Steer beef carcasses have dropped $1.00. And beef cuts -- especially rounds, loins and ribs -- have dropped $2.00. Veal and calf carcasses have held unchanged. All grades of lambs have advanced $1.00. Ewe mutton has gained $2.00. Fresh pork carcasses have held unchanged. Smoked ham and bacon have been in ample supply for demand, with sliced bacon and lard around $1.00 lower. All prices are on a per hundred-weight basis.

Cold weather has resulted in lighter supplies of eggs, which have been in more demand. However, all grades have held unchanged in price from last week. Grade "A" Large eggs in cartons are quoted to retailers at 68 to 69 cents per dozen, Grade "A" Mediums at 66 to 67 cents, and Grade "A" Smalls at 61 cents per dozen.

Generally, supplies of butter have been ample for the needs of an improved demand -- especially for second quality butter. But prices have followed the upward trend in eastern and central western markets and have advanced 1 to 2 cents. Grades A&AA(1st Quality) are up 2 cents from last week at 71 to 73 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints to retailers. Grade B(2nd Quality) is 1-cent higher at 69½ to 71 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints to retailers.

Dressed poultry has been in only moderate demand, with the result that liberal supplies of colored fryers and roasters have dropped 1 to 2 cents per pound. Leghorn hens -- in moderate supply -- are 1-cent higher than last week. All other classes are unchanged in price.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ended Jan. 28, 1949)

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 25--- California Newtown apples are a Fairly Good Buy in the San Francisco wholesale fruit and vegetable market, along with grapes, grapefruit (slightly lower), and pears as Fair Buys.

Lemons, oranges, and avosados are lower in price but are still expensive.

The week's Fairly Good Buys in vegetables are cabbage and dry onions.

Represented in the Fair Buy class are carrots and potatoes.

In the high-priced group are artichokes, Florida snap beans, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, lettuce, peppers, spinach, sweetpotatoes, and tomatoes.

MORE

Demand tapered off some in the San Francisco wholesale meat market this past week. The beef offered was about the best in quality for the season, but prices sagged. Commercial and Good steer and heifer beef dropped $1.00 to $2.00, and Utility and Commercial grades $2.00 to $3.00 per hundredweight. Good and Choice veal and calf carcasses were extremely scarce but held practically unchanged in price. Lamb carcasses advanced $1.00, while ewe mutton was extremely scarce at unchanged prices. The supply of fresh pork was more liberal. And although prices tended to a narrower range, they were little changed. Sliced layer bacon dropped $2.00 per hundredweight, and refined lard packed in 1-pound cartons went down $1.00.

Despite lower prices in eastern and central western butter markets, local butter prices have gained 1-cent since last Tuesday. Grades A&AA (1st Quality) are quoted to retailers at 72 to 74 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints. And Grade B(2nd Quality) is quoted to retailers at 70½ to 72 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints. Consumer demand has improved. For the week ended Jan. 15, San Francisco retail sales were 46.10 percent above the previous week. Supplies are ample.

Egg prices are following the usual seasonal downward trend and have dropped 4 to 5 cents per dozen. Although cold weather has cut down local production, receipts are larger because west coast prices have been attracting eggs from central western markets. Grade "A" Large eggs in cartons are quoted to retailers at 63 to 64 cents per dozen, Grade "A" Mediums at 61 to 62 cents per dozen, and Grade "A" Smalls at 57 cents per dozen.

A moderately active demand for dressed poultry in the San Francisco wholesale market has kept supplies fairly well cleared. However, supplies have been ample—especially colored fryers and roasters. Prices have dropped 1 to 2 cents per pound on colored fryers, and 3 cents on colored roasters. All other classes are unchanged in price from a week ago.

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